Sturminster Newton Town Council

1st October 2020

Funding Requests

1. Introduction

The Town Council has received three requests for funding:

i. Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust request for £2000 per annum to support the museum.
ii. Sturbiz request a contribution towards the £16,000 cost of a Town Business Manager
iii. Sturminster Newton Youth Club request £1200 to support outreach work

The full request texts are attached to this report.

2. Funding Considerations

2.1 Grant budget

Grant requests are usually considered in January and amounts are ordinarily awarded between £250 and £700. There is £3981 available in the grants budget for this year.

2.2 Reserves

The Council is required under statute to maintain adequate financial reserves in order to meet its needs. Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires that billing and "precepting" authorities in England and Wales have regard to the level of reserves needed to meet estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.
Earmarked reserves represent amounts that are generally built up over a period of time which are earmarked for specific items of expenditure to meet known or anticipated liabilities or projects. The setting aside of funds to meet known future expenditure reduces the impact of meeting the full expenditure in one year and is considered good practice. The current Town Council earmarked reserves have been agreed and are summarised below:

• Commuted Sums	£41,424
• Vehicle Reserve	£6,000
• Assets and Infrastructure	£14,714
• Play Equipment	£16,296
Office and Administration	£3,756
• Carnival	£500

The Council should be aware that the earmarked reserves, as they stand, do not cover the liabilities of repairing or replacing the Council's current assets. The projects that the Council commissioned within the Business Plan will report progress in the autumn; early indications are that the Council will need to focus on boosting the reserves in the next and future budgets to ensure that the Council is able to adequately maintain its estate and assets.

2.3 Project Budget

The Council has a project budget of £17,159 within the overall revenue budget for 2020/21. The Council has already determined that this will focus on an agreed set of priority projects considered and then articulated within the Business Plan, for example The Mill and the purchase of speed indicator devices. Repurposing the budget which has already been agreed will impact the Council's ability to deliver its stated Business Plan objectives.

3. Recommendations

That the Council considers the requests for funding, noting the current financial position of the Council.

Emma Lindsay
Town Clerk

Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust

16.09.20

To: Sturminster Newton Town Council

Dear Councillors,

Approximately a year ago Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust drew up plans to build extensions to Sturminster`s Museum in order to provide much needed space for the correct storage of the its collection and a room large enough to host school classes. In addition, thinking of the future, the Trust planned to develop a Roman Gallery to provide information with regard to future excavation work at Hinton St Mary by the British Museum. Of these objectives, solving the storage problem is the most important and immediate and needs to be resolved by early next year.

Our Museum has Accredited status awarded by the Arts Council but we are in the process of applying for the renewal of its Accreditation (a process necessary every 5 years) and the application is due to be assessed April 2021. The Museum Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and makes sure that, whatever their size, museums manage their collections properly, govern well and engage fully with visitors. Failure to achieve Accreditation impacts on our potential to secure grants from key heritage and arts and heritage funding bodies including the NHLF. The current storage conditions in the Museum are woefully substandard with boxes double stacked and in spaces difficult to access, circumstances which not only puts the collection at risk but staff as well. The Trustees are concerned because the Arts Council have indicated that an inspection of the Museum`s premises is highly likely to precede assessment of our Accreditation bid next year. As advised by Vicky de Wit (Dorset Museums Advisor) loss of Accreditation status could impact on the Trust`s ability to secure funding for the Museum and Mill, as key funders in the sector have Accreditation as a mandatory requirement (Arts Council Project Grants) and a benchmark of effectiveness (NHLF). We will need to secure external investment for essential repair work on the Mill. Also, the cost of maintaining the Museum is highly dependent on the financial proceeds from visitors to the Mill.

From September 30th, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Trust will lose a tenant from the Museum, the rental income from whom has been used to partially cover repayments for the mortgage on the building. However, loss of a tenant does give the Trust an opportunity to recover this space for storage and, possibly, to house a visitor research station. The Trust would beg the Council to consider supporting retention of this room for Museum use by covering the bulk of the lost income - £2000 per year – until the mortgage terminates in 14 years or until an extension can be built. Such support would not only help with the success of our application for Accreditation but, being able to demonstrate support by our local Council is a great advantage when applying for grants. Many other Dorset museums are supported by their respective Town Councils.

The current Covid 19 pandemic has caused the Museum to close this season as some anti-viral conditions are extremely difficult to apply (a one-way system for example) but we are working hard towards some opening by the end of this year and to be fully operational by February 2021. The Museum is normally open year round and, apart from the Mill and the Exchange, being the only

other visitor attraction in the town, does make its contribution to the economic welfare of Sturminster Newton.

The Trust has not abandoned its plans to increase the size of the Museum but in the short term rationalising storage of the heritage collection comes first and is the most urgent in view of an impending Accreditation assessment which may affect the future of both the Museum and Mill. The Trust is asking the Council for long term financial support to ensure the Museum is sustainable and avoid loss of the Museum`s Accreditation status.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Denham,

Sturminster Museum Curator,

On behalf of the Trustees of Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust.

Grant Application for a worker to promote the economic development of Sturminster Newton

SturBiz requests a grant from the Sturminster Newton Town Council towards the above post. The post will cost £16k for a full year and SturBiz are asking for a contribution to that.

Background

- In July, the Town Centre Working Group identified the need to reinvigorate the local community after Covid19. The Town Centre Working Group was established by the Town Council and it was the Town Councillors on that Group, plus your Dorset Councillor, who put forward the idea of what they called a "Town Business Manager" to work to promote the economic development of the town, especially important following the Covid 19 pandemic. The town and the surrounding area have a history of low value economic activity and low social mobility which there have been previous initiatives to address on the part of the local authorities.
- Sturbiz responded to the proposal of the Town Councillors by extending the hours and role of their current Coordinator who has substantial relevant experience – and good contacts built up over time. SturBiz recognised that for the Town Council to go through the process of establishing a post and appointing to it would take considerable time and it was felt there was not that time to waste. Discussion has taken place as to what this role should be called, to avoid compromising other town roles, and the current suggestion is to call this post the Economic Development Coordinator

The required outcome

- The required outcome is to improve the quality of life for all residents by making Sturminster Newton a thriving town for all – residents and visitors and businesses. The aim was that Stur and the surrounding area should become an attractive place to live and work with good employment opportunities for all through the growth of successful local businesses.

Funding

- Sturbiz is seeking other funding and contributions for this position, but that will take time. Sturbiz had £3.5K available for this position from earnings and donations, and is actively seeking grants and donations, currently from

the National Lottery and Stour Management (Dorset) Board. When Sturminster Newton Economic Development Society Limited's (SNEDSL) two charity shops are in a more secure position the intention is that they will contribute to funding the post. The worker is being provided with office facilities at The Emporium by SNEDSL

- **Personal expectations**The worker is expected to be self-motivating, line-managed through SturBiz who in turn are working in close liaison with Chairman of the Town Centre Working Group, Cllr Lacey. SNEDSL, whose umbrella SturBiz operates under, is initially committed to the post for one year, with a review towards the end of that yea. The post is a half-time (18 hours) post on a self-employed basis, paid at £15 per hour worked flexibly in accordance with the demands of the work. The Coordinator's performance will be judged against her achievement of the outputs above and her contribution to the implementation of the Town Centre Working Group Action Plan. It is believed that the results already are such that the post will continue thereafter, with any amendment as necessary, and any surplus funds carried forward into the second year.

e of a revitalised town :

- The immediate priority is to get regular market stalls back into the town on Saturdays, Mondays and when events occur. This is already well underway and proving successful.
- Initiating events, and supporting others who are running events to bring people into the town, for the enjoyment of residents and to support hospitality businesses and retail businesses.
- Working with accommodation providers and others to bring tourists to spend their money in the town.
- Developing a brand with the other Blackmore Vale Market Towns and marketing Stur and surrounding area as the Heart of the Blackmore Vale, building on work previously done with NDDC, the Sturminster Newton Town Council and the market towns. The Unique Selling Point (USP) of Stur is generally agreed to be as a place for good local food.
- Working directly with businesses to grow SturBiz as the Chamber of Commerce for Stur and the surrounding area by organising a range of training and networking activities according to Members needs and ideas
- Obtaining funds to support activities in the town (including funding for the Coordinator's post)
- Such other outputs as may from time to time be identified by SturBiz working with the partners in the Town Centre Working Group.

Pauline Batstone,

Chairman SturBiz
Secretary SNEDSL.
14.9..2020

SturYouth Club
The Knapps
Bath Road
Sturminster Newton
Dorset
DT10 1DR

sturyouthclub@gmail.com

To the Clerk to Sturminster Newton Town Council

As you will be aware, SturYouth Club has for the past three years run a successful and for the main part, self-funded youth club, renting the Sixth Form building from the High School. We regularly have visits from up to 70 young people per week attending over two evenings.

Since lockdown began the SturYouth Club along with other club providers in the town closed their doors and have been unable to offer the support young people need. The impact that COVID has had on the mental health and wellbeing of young people is still an unknown, as a youth worker I am very concerned that young people are missing out on vital support from the services that they usually rely on.

After a meeting with the management committee last week, it has become evident that the youth club will be unable to operate from the school for a very, very long time, if ever. Therefore, for the interim, we are looking at running an outreach programme in the town, starting in October and running for six months, throughout the winter evenings until March 2021.

With the pressure of school and the lack of recreational activities and darker evenings approaching the aim of this outreach programme is to,

- To have a Youth Worker going to where the young people are hanging out.
- To build positive relationships with young people in their own environment to monitor any anti -social behaviour.
- To engage young people in becoming part of a working group to look at the future of the youth club.
- To signpost young people to services and support if needed.
- To signpost suitable young to the Connect to Employment scheme and volunteering opportunities at Stour Connect both of which I am supporting at Stour Connect.

X2 sessions per week until 18 march 2021

40 sesssions 3 hours per session @ £10 per hour

Total cost £1200.

I am writing to ask if Sturminster Newton Town Council would be able to support some of these costs to ensure that the outreach sessions are able to start as planned.

Kind regards

Dawn Ball

Lead Youth Worker